

## **ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS**

### **Northern Bald Eagle**

**For All Action Alternatives** a determination of **MAY EFFECT - NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT** was reached because: The project area contains no habitat designated "critical" or "essential" for Federally listed species.

- 1.) The proposed fence locations are greater than ½ mile line of site of any known nest.
- 2.) The proposed fence locations are greater than ¼ mile line of site of any known winter roosts.
- 3.) Individuals that use the project area for incidental foraging could easily avoid operations since there are other higher quality foraging area close by.
- 4.) **Project design elements are consistent with Criteria I and II in the 2001-2003 Programmatic BA.**

Coordination with Level 1 team or others: None

#### **Direct/Indirect Effects**

All nest and roost locations are greater than ½ mile from locations where any fence construction will occur. There is a possibility that brief disturbance could occur if eagles are foraging on the NF Crooked river, but ample other locations are available in the immediately surrounding area. Disturbance of winter roosts and nests could occur if fence materials are hauled to construction sites via helicopter (see mitigations).

#### **Cumulative Effects**

Bald eagles have been increasing in Oregon for the past decade. Current population numbers are above those established in the recovery goals for this zone.

#### **Mitigations**

If fence materials are flown, via helicopter, to construction locations on the North Fork of the Crooked River between January 1 and August 31, known nest sites will be avoided by a minimum of ½ mile line of site. The South Fork of the Crooked River is exempt from these mitigations as no known nest sites are known to occur within several miles of proposed fence locations.

### **Other Sensitive Species**

The project was determined to have no impact on all other special status species that are known to have habitat in the project area. There is potential for a beneficial impact from the project once gap fences are in place and improvements in riparian areas are observed.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS – TE&S Wildlife:**

I recommend no additional restrictions for TE&S species at this time, if new species warrant consideration or species occurrence data is updated additional evaluation will be necessary.